

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



ADULT & SENIOR CARE UPDATE

JUNE 2006

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION ADULT & SENIOR CARE UPDATE

This is our second quarterly Adult and Senior Care Update for 2006. The Updates continue to be an important method for sharing information about licensing programs and services. We appreciate your support in sharing these Updates with members in your organization and others interested in adult and senior care issues.

REGULATION PACKAGES

The following regulation package for adult care facilities is currently in the process of being completed. If you have questions regarding the proposed regulations, please contact the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312. For copies of proposed regulations, contact the Office of Regulation Development (ORD) at (916) 657-2586 or visit their website at www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/default.htm. Please note that depending on the version of software that you are currently using, it might be necessary to press your control key to activate the hyperlinks found throughout this document.

Category Consolidation for Adult Day Programs: The applicable General Licensing Requirements, Adult Day Care and Adult Day Support Center Regulations are being consolidated into a single category called Adult Day Programs to comply with Senate Bill 1982, Chapter 773, Statutes of 2002. The public hearing for these regulations was held on August 17, 2005. As a result of public comments received, changes were made to the regulations that necessitated a 15-day re-notice. The re-notice period was April 12 to April 27, 2006. No additional testimony was received. The package will be forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law for review.

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION INFORMATION RELEASES

As announced in the December 2005 Update, CCLD has initiated a new process for distributing newly implemented policies and procedures to licensing staff, facility licensees and other interested parties in a timely and efficient manner. This new process consists of distributing Information Releases to CCLD staff and also posting these memos onto the CCLD website. Information Releases can be accessed by CCLD staff and the public at http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/CommunityC_2284.htm.

There are two new Information Releases for 2006 for adult and senior care facilities. One Information Release defines and describes complaint, collateral and case management visits. The other explains the purpose of and the requirements for the Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project (ALWPP). The ALWPP was created by Assembly Bill 499 to determine if persons who are both Medi-Cal eligible and nursing-home eligible would be suitable for placement in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE).

There are a total of six Information Releases, three from 2005, on the site currently. Keeping current with licensing requirements is an important part of the operation of any licensed facility. Licensees are encouraged to check the link on the CCLD website on a regular basis for updated information on the licensing program.

PILOT PROJECT

The Department of Social Services, CCLD and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) are conducting a joint pilot project on the licensure of facilities that serve the developmentally disabled population. Applicants interested in providing residential and programming services to the developmentally disabled population need to go through two similar application or approval processes; one through CCLD and the other through the regional center. The pilot project entails integrating parts of the CCLD application and regional center vendorization process. The pilot project will test the effectiveness of integrating both processes to expedite the issuance of a facility license.

The pilot project is voluntary to applicants. It will impact facilities serving developmentally disabled individuals and vendorized by the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center covering portions of Los Angeles County. Facility types affected will include Adult Residential Facilities (ARF), Group Homes, Small Family Homes and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly. The pilot project will include the processing of initial applications, change of ownership, and downsizing of large capacity facilities to multiple smaller capacity facilities. The pilot project will not include facility relocations or capacity changes at the same facility location. If you have questions regarding the pilot project, please contact Regional Manager, Claire Matsushita in the Adult Care Program at (323) 980-4934 or Regional Manager, JoAnn Hirai in the Senior Care Program at (818) 596-4334.

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

This article serves as a reminder to licensees and facility staff of how important it is to handle medications with care. If not managed properly, medications intended to help a resident's/client's health condition may place his/her health and safety at risk. Community Care Facilities are not required to have licensed medical professionals on staff and therefore decisions staff can make about medications are limited. Sometimes it may be difficult for facility staff to ascertain or determine the appropriate course of action from the regulations alone. Therefore, the Technical Support Program Self-Assessment Guide-Medications was created to assist licensees and their staff in understanding and complying with regulatory requirements regarding medications. This guide can be accessed at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/Res/pdf/Medications.pdf>. Please note that this guide cannot be used as a substitute for knowledge of the regulations.

ALLERGY SEASON

Due to an unusually late rainy winter and early warm spring, it is anticipated that this will be one of the worst seasons on record for allergies. What are allergies? "Allergies are diseases of the immune system that cause an overreaction to substances called allergens." When these allergens enter an individual's body, it can cause a variety of symptoms. These symptoms include: itchy or water eyes; sneezing; runny, stuffy, or itchy nose; headache; fatigue; post nasal drip; swollen eyes; dark circles under the eyes; sore throat; insomnia; and irritability. The best way to prevent or minimize your allergy symptoms is to avoid allergens. Another way is to consult a physician regarding the appropriate medication to take. Please note, allergies should not be ignored as they can lead to nasal or ear infections.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), which estimates that 50 million Americans suffer from allergies, has published the top 100 worst places to live for people who suffer from allergies. Eight California cities are on this list. These cities and their ranks on the list are: Sacramento #8; Modesto #30; San Diego #31; Stockton #45; San Francisco #76; Los Angeles #81; Bakersfield #83; and Fresno #90. Last year these cities were ranked #62, #48, #90, #57, #93, #99, #95, and #61 respectively. Experts recommend that anyone who lives in these cities should take precautions to lessen the impact of allergens both indoors and outdoors. For a list of these precautions and more information, please visit the AAFA website at <http://www.aafa.org>.

ADULT & SENIOR CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

The Adult Care Program is pleased to announce the appointment of **Richard J. Teran** as Licensing Program Manager of the Stockton Local Unit Office. Richard began his career in CCLD as a Licensing Program Analyst in 1990. Prior to his appointment, Richard was a Licensing Program Manager in the Bay Area Child Care Regional Office for three years. Richard assumed his new position on April 3, 2006.

The Senior Care Program is pleased to announce the appointment of **Reynauldo Pennywell** as Licensing Program Manager of the Orange Local Unit Office. Reynauldo began his career in CCLD as a Licensing Program Analyst in 1998. Reynauldo assumed his new position on April 3, 2006.

UPDATE ON THE ASSISTED LIVING WAIVER PILOT PROJECT

As reported in previous issues, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) created the Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project to test the feasibility of providing assisted living as a Medi-Cal benefit and as an alternative to long-term placement in a nursing home. Under this pilot, Medi-Cal funds may be used to pay for care for eligible persons in a licensed RCFE (with care provided by facility staff) or in publicly subsidized housing (with care provided by a home health agency). ALWPP residents must be both Medi-Cal eligible and nursing-home eligible.

This pilot is being conducted in Sacramento, San Joaquin and Los Angeles counties, and has a capacity of 1,000 participants over its three-year life span. Participating RCFEs must be in good standing with CCLD and must meet the following criteria: 24-hour awake staff; private-room occupancy (or shared by choice); private or semi-private full bathroom (to be shared by no more than two residents); kitchenettes; a hospice waiver; and, as necessary, licensed nursing staff to meet the skilled nursing needs of residents. RCFEs with a licensed capacity of fewer than seven beds do not have to have awake staff at night or provide kitchenettes (as long as residents have access to a common kitchen area at all times).

RCFEs currently approved by CDHS to participate in the pilot began enrolling residents into the ALWPP in late April 2006. CDHS encourages other interested RCFEs in Sacramento, San Joaquin and Los Angeles counties to submit an application to participate in the ALWPP. The application form is available on the ALWPP web site at www.californiaassistedliving.org, under Provider Information, RCFEs. At the present time, CDHS expects to offer ALWPP training sessions for RCFE providers in July 2006 and January 2007. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following CDHS staff: Mark Mimnaugh at (916) 552-9379; or Rosa King at (916) 552-9454.

THE WEST NILE VIRUS LONG-TERM CARE RECOMMENDATIONS AND BROCHURE

With the summer months upon us, many local media outlets have already featured stories on the potential health threats posed by the West Nile Virus (WNV). Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. WNV is most often spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. While most infected people either have no symptoms or flu-like symptoms, the elderly and those with compromised immune symptoms are at greatest risk for serious illness. Persons

with diabetes and hypertension also appear more likely to develop serious complications from WNV.

To assist licensees in dealing with the WNV threat, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Division of Communicable Disease Control, has prepared WNV guidelines for long-term care facilities. These guidelines can be accessed at the following CDHS web site: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/dcdc/disb/pdf/Long-term%20care%20facilities%20WNV%204-5-05.pdf>. Any questions should be directed to Jon Rosenberg, M.D., at jrosenbe@dhs.ca.gov or Chris Cahill, M.S., R.N., at ccahill@dhs.ca.gov.

Moreover, CDHS's Vector Borne Disease Section has developed a brochure on WNV prevention for people over the age of 50, which is available in both English and Spanish. The direct links to the brochure are: http://westnile.ca.gov/website/edu_materials/over_50_wnv_brochure.pdf http://westnile.ca.gov/website/edu_materials/Senior_Spanish.pdf For copies, contact Claudia Erickson at cerickso@dhs.ca.gov or (916) 552-9762.

In general, licensees are reminded of the following WNV prevention tips:

- Drain standing water. Mosquitoes can hatch in as little as a half-inch of water.
- Keep mosquitoes outside by installing or repairing both window and door screens.
- Use an effective mosquito repellent containing ingredients such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long pants and sleeves outdoors when practical.
- Try to avoid being outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- If you find a dead bird, don't handle the body with your bare hands. Call your local health department to report the find and to obtain instructions on disposing of the body.

For continuously updated information on WNV, please see the CDHS web site at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/> or the federal Centers for Disease Control web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for licensed adult and senior care facilities are available online. When you visit the CCLD home page, click on the link on the left side of the page that is titled, "[Licensing Overview](#)." After clicking on "Licensing Overview," click on "Basic Statistics About Licensed Facilities." Then click on the first bullet that says, "Number of State Licensed Facilities, by County." Scroll to the end of the document for the statewide totals. Further breakouts by category and location are still available. Please direct your requests to Sarah Fernandes, Central Operations Branch, at (916) 327-2406. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office. Please see the attached lists for phone numbers and locations of [Adult](#) and [Senior](#) Care Program offices.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about items included in this Update or suggestions for future topics, please contact Barbara Rooney, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Also, please visit our website at www.cclid.ca.gov to obtain copies of Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Jo Frederick)

JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures